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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6607

INFO RUHJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1977

RUHJDE/AMEMBASSY DACCA 0355

RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0964

RUSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0509

RUFELC/AMCONSUL Leningrad 5997

RUSBAR/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1443

RUQMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0147

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13157

E.O. 12865: RDS-1 5/24/99 (TOCN, "ALCOOL") OR-M

TAGS: AF, PEPR, UR

SUBJECT: (C) REPORTED APPOINTMENT OF SOVIET DIPLOMAT AS
DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO DRA

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AT MAY 22 QUADRIPARTITE MEETING, UK AMBASSADOR
REPORTED THAT FORMER SOVIET DEPUTY PERMREP AT THE UN AND
NOW AN OFFICIAL IN THE SOVIET MFA SECOND EUROPEAN DEPT.,
EASILY STEFANOVICH SLYBONCHUK, WILL BE GOING TO KABUL
AS A DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. WE
ASSUME THAT, IN EFFECT, THIS DESIGNATION WILL MAKE HIM
THE PERSONAL ADVISER TO B. AMIN.

3. A PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT TOLD US MAY 24 THAT A PRC DIPLO-
MAT HAD MENTIONED TO HIM THAT SAFRONCHUK WILL BE GOING TO
KABUL, PERHAPS AS AMBASSADOR. PAK SOURCE SAID THAT,
ALTHOUGH SAFRONCHUK APPEARS TO HAVE HAD NO PREVIOUS AFGHAN
OR EVEN ASIAN-RELATED ASSIGNMENTS, HIS EMBASSY'S RECORDS
INDICATE THAT HE WAS IN KABUL ON AN OFFICIAL TRIP SHORTLY
BEFORE OR DURING THE APRIL 27, 1978, COUP. PAK SOURCE
STATED FURTHER THAT PAKS BELIEVE SAFRONCHUK HAS ISB
CONNECTIONS.

4. EMBASSY'S RELATIVELY BRIEF BIO ACCOUNT ON SAFRONCHUK
DESCRIBES HIM AS PRIMARILY A SPECIALIST ON UK AFFAIRS.
HE SERVED FOR THREE YEARS AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GHANA
(1968-71) BEFORE MOVING TO THE UN AS SOVIET DEPUTY
PERMANENT. HE APPARENTLY ALSO AT ONE TIME WAS PART OF THE
SOVIET REPRESENTATION ON THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE FAR EAST, AND HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY
THROUGHOUT THE FAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER BIO INFO ON
SAFRONCHUK THE DEPT. MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. TCON
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